



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



January 11, 2008

Happy New Year!

Back from hibernation and ready to begin another year's volume of the Weekly Report!!! And just in time, too. There is quite a bit going on around town!

Library Update

As you may have seen, the old library building is being dismantled – the playground equipment, parking lot and most of the building are gone. The building should be completely gone by the middle of next week. Afterwards, we will install windows at points along the perimeter fencing so that folks can monitor progress as the new building is constructed. Earthwork and grading are set to be completed by the end of this month, with concrete work to follow closely afterwards. The second project bid package is due to be opened at the end of this month as well. This bid package contains the bulk of the major building systems. This is truly an exciting project. If you have any questions about the project, the Library Park Master Plan, or other related topics, feel free to call Community Development Director Alice Griselle or me. Alternatively, if you have questions about the Monrovia Public Library's temporary location – the Mary Wilcox Youth Center – please contact Community Services Director April Soash.

Colorado Commons Nearing Completion

It seems as though it was only a few months ago that construction began on the Colorado Commons mixed-use development in Old Town. However, after nearly 16 months of construction, the project has really come into focus and is nearly complete. A number of the units have either been pre-sold or reserved and, as you can imagine, the developer is anxious to complete the final phases and get the units sold. Because of the uniqueness and relatively small number of units (there are only 68) I suspect that they will sell out fairly quickly, considering the current market conditions. If you have any questions about the project, the Redevelopment Agency's units that are available to first-time homebuyers, or just have general questions, please contact Darlene Sanchez of the Redevelopment Agency.

State of the City Allows Monrovia to Shine

On Tuesday evening, Mayor Rob Hammond delivered his State of the City Address to a packed auditorium at the Krikorian Theater. His speech focused on progress, balanced and managed growth, and the need to continue to involve Monrovia from every corner of the community in the decision-making process. Monrovia continues to move forward at a steady and fiscally-conservative pace. Considering the current economy and the potential for Sacramento to "borrow" resources from local government, this is the most responsible course of action.

Additionally, the Council has remained consistent with the vision that has guided the City for the last 30 years and took Monrovia from a community that was down-and-out to the successes we have all come to enjoy – proving that economic development and careful, judicious growth add vitality and

sustainability to a community. By enacting zoning regulations that effectively preserve existing residential neighborhoods, the Council has transferred development pressure to corridors where such development makes sense – Old Town and the Myrtle Avenue Corridor, West and East Huntington Drive, and Station Square. This is not only good for Monrovia residents, but it is also good city planning and good for the environment – that is, to locate people, amenities and services all nearby one another to try and pry them from their cars, while simultaneously adding a lasting human element to mixed-use neighborhoods.

The Mayor also discussed new programs enacted in 2007 and introduced members of the community who participated in these programs. These participants were generally new folks from all parts of the community who hadn't really participated in City events and programs, but who recently decided to get involved. From the Monrovia Area Partnership Program (MAP), which focuses on eliminating blighting influences in specific neighborhoods; to the Youth Employment Service (YES!), which provided internship opportunities this past summer to at-risk youth; to the Community Emergency Response Team Program (CERT), which trains neighborhood residents and business people in disaster preparedness so that they can function as auxiliary responders in the event of a major disaster – all of these people were young and old, affluent and less affluent, all colors and creeds, from every neighborhood, and all looking to be a part of the community. This truly is a great American town.

If you missed the speech on KGEM, it is playing now on the City's website, www.cityofmonrovia.org.

Governor Schwarzenegger Releases Budget

The Governor released his proposed budget on Thursday and a funny thing happened – there was no real hit to California cities. Against a backdrop of a \$14 billion deficit, counties, school districts, state parks, prisons, transportation, public colleges and universities will assuredly suffer significant losses. But cities were spared...for now. I kind of feel like a soldier in one of those war movies where the platoon is walking through the jungle and we suddenly stop – “It's quiet...too quiet.” Usually the Governor's budget is the doom and gloom report, and the so-called “May Revise” (the closed session where the Governor and legislative leadership actually decide how to spend the \$90 billion budget) is where relief is sought by local governments. This year – perhaps because of Prop 1A's protections for cities, or because of rumors of a state tax increase, or because of some other reason – this scenario may be turned on its head and we may not know the extent of a potential loss until late spring. In any event, the City Council has already made mid-year budget adjustments in anticipation of a hit. I suppose that the Governor's budget's apparent good news means that we will have to hold our breath until at least June.

City Council Meeting Preview

We will start 2008 off with a bang. Although we only have two public hearings and three administrative reports, one of the public hearings is the proposed revision of the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the General Plan, and certification of the accompanying Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The roots of this General Plan Amendment go back to 1993, with the adoption of the City's existing General Plan. This General Plan set the stage for some future development anchored by the old train station located just west of Myrtle Avenue, south of the freeway. As the Blue Line (later renamed the Gold Line) through to Pasadena became a reality and the possibility of an eastern extension of the line through the foothill communities became a real project, the City took additional steps to capitalize on the potential of a light rail stop at Myrtle Avenue. In 2002, the Redevelopment Agency expanded its boundaries to incorporate additional areas surrounding the train station; the Urban Land Institute (ULI) was invited to provide an outside perspective as to the types of development that might be

pursued in the area; and the following year, a qualification process was conducted to select developers to work in this project area. All the while, the City's Planning Division and Engineering Division built off the ULI report to prepare an amendment to the General Plan to reflect the findings of the ULI report.

The General Plan Amendment (GPA) focuses on a handful of key areas in town: the Station Square Transit Village area; the South Myrtle Avenue Corridor (which encompasses several unique areas from Olive Avenue to the Freeway); and West Huntington Drive. The GPA calls out specific and more intensive types of development that would be allowed in these specific areas, as well as related traffic issues that additional development might engender. However, also contained in the GPA are a variety of mitigations that would need to go along with any future development.

A good example is in the Station Square area. The existing condition of the Myrtle Avenue/210 Freeway intersection is fairly congested a good deal of the time. Any significant project going forward would need to construct improvements in this area to allow for improved traffic flow. This would likely take the form of street widening, signalization, additional turn pockets and lanes, etc. Staff anticipates that such improvements would cost millions of dollars and are thus currently beyond the City's resources. However, by making such improvements conditions of development, these investments would be completed as part of a larger project.

Aside from the infrastructure investments, the GPA focuses on the facilitation of more and better transit opportunities and sustainable development. With the Station Square project, especially, development would key off of the proposed Gold Line stop and incorporate a blend of housing, jobs and amenities (parks, plazas, etc.). The goal is to establish dynamic and walk-able neighborhoods that are safe, inviting and interesting.

No doubt the staff presentation will be extensive and will reflect the findings of the many public meetings already held on the GPA. Still, the subject is so large and so far-reaching that every bit of time, effort and dialogue just to get to this point has been well worth it. Staff is recommending approval of the General Plan Amendment and Certification of the EIR.

The second public hearing is consideration of the proposed 34th Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation. The CDBG program funds much of the City's code enforcement program. As in previous years, the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development has cut the CDBG allocation. As a "Participating City" (a city with a population of less than 50,000), Monrovia has little say in the amount of its allocation. The estimated FY2008 allocation is \$376,676. Staff is recommending approval of the CDBG allocation and related programs.

Item AR-1 is a mid-year update, as requested by the Council, on the implementation of Monrovia's 21 Environmental Accords. Since it was enacted last year, the City's "Green Team" has identified 59 special projects that it is working on to push Monrovia closer to environmental sustainability. Truly, the Accords address a wide variety of topics, from Waste Management to Water Conservation, from Urban Nature to Renewable Energy. Staff will provide the Council with an update as to our progress. Staff recommends that the Council receive and file this report.

AR-2 is a review of the Bus Advertising Program. Last year, in an effort to generate additional revenue, the Council suggested an advertising program that revolved around advertisements placed on the City's fleet of Monrovia Transit vehicles. Staff will provide a detailed overview of the steps taken to get to this point, but overall the program has been a success – generating excess revenues (revenues over hard expenditures) of nearly \$2,000. Staff recommends that the Council receive and file this report.

Lastly, item AR-3 is the regular legislative update. However, this report will be slightly different in that it also gives the Council the opportunity to speak directly with the principals of the City's Washington-based lobbying firm, Eddington Peel, who have come to Monrovia to share the news that Monrovia is slated to receive a nearly \$500,000 grant from the federal government for the public improvements around the proposed Station Square Project. Staff recommends that the Council approve the Legislative Bulletin.

As always, if you have any questions about any item on the agenda, please feel free to contact me directly.

Monrovia Annual Report Published

By now, no doubt you have received the January/February edition of Monrovia Today, which includes the City's Annual Report. PIO Dick Singer further streamlined this year's report to help make it even more inviting and easier to read. Also, included in the Monrovia Today is an interest card that you can sign and return to City Hall that informs the folks at the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) that the Gold Line is important and if they build it, we'll ride it!

Articles Attached

- **Monrovia Mayor Gives Upbeat State of City Address**
- **City Opts for Own Animal Control**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Building Division Valuation. The rainy season is here and it is apparent by the 17 re-roofing permits that were issued this month. Total construction valuation came in at a modest \$1,554,820. Not a bad month considering that we were in the middle of the holidays. Year to date construction valuation is \$13,791,331 and is lower than last year's \$15,251,811. Although construction valuation is lower at this time, permit fees are higher (\$331,518.82) as compared to last year \$317,000.86, which represents 4.38% increase.

During this month, the Building Counter techs issued 178 building permits including mechanical, electrical and plumbing. This brings the total year to date to 1,117 permits issued which is an increase of 36% compared to last year's 821 permits. The building inspectors made 584 inspections for this month which brings the total year to date to 3,782.

Filming. Avery Pix, Inc. will be filming scenes for a feature film titled "Seventeen" starring Zac Efron and Matthew Perry at Scoops, 120 E. Lemon on Tuesday, January 15 from 6 a.m. to midnight. They will be filming interior scenes, but will have equipment in front of and across the street from the location. On that same day they will also film driving scenes on the 210 Freeway.

Special Event. On Saturday, January 19, Jakeline Aviles will be blocking off a portion of the north/south alley between Cypress and Cherry for a birthday party at her residence, 110 E. Cypress Avenue from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Planning Commission Meeting. At the Planning Commission meeting of January 9, the Commission reviewed the request of Henry Nunez, applicant, to extend the Hillside Development Permit to one year for the property located at 314 El Nido Avenue. The applicant was in attendance and discussed the extension with the Commission. After further discussion among the Commissioners, they approved the application.

Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Kick Off Party. The Monrovia Area Partnership is kicking off its new extended area on January 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Julian Fisher Park.

This kickoff will mark an expansion of the existing MAP Area to include the area that borders Colorado Boulevard to the north, Myrtle Avenue to the west, Huntington Drive to the south and Shamrock Avenue to the east. Due to the great response in MAP Area 1, and the response already generating in the new expanded area, we expect over 500 residents to attend.

The kickoff will serve as an informational expo as well as a block party. Booths from City Departments, local businesses, organizations and nonprofits will be there to give out information on services. To add to the event, lunch will be provided for residents, staff and sponsors, City officials will be on hand to speak about the MAP Program, a Kids' Zone along with the Monrovia Reads and Plays van will be there for the youth, and music will be played throughout the event to keep the atmosphere festive. The extended MAP Area presents new challenges for the program, and this kickoff marks the start of a new approach to these challenges in these neighborhoods. In case of inclement weather, the kickoff will be changed to a different day.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

America Reads Challenge Tutoring. The Monrovia Public Library partners with Mt. Sierra College to provide reading tutoring to children in grades K – 5 through the America Reads Challenge Program which is federally funded. The college student is paid through the school and the library administers the project and curriculum. This tutoring program resumes the week of January 7 with a college student providing 20 hours per week of one-to-one reading instruction to those registered. Throughout the year, each of the 20 children receives one hour of tutoring per week at the library.

AmeriCorps Volunteers

The Library's Literacy Office has two new AmeriCorps volunteers for 2008 -- Chris Hynes and Miga Wang. After attending AmeriCorps training in San Diego the week of January 7, they will begin assisting with all literacy services including Monrovia Reads and Plays.

Fire Department Visits the Library. Fire and emergency preparedness stories and safety were the themes of the Library's morning storytimes this past week. Towards the end of each session, the Fire Department brought an engine to the back of the Library so that the children could "see and touch" a real fire truck. The children loved the novelty of getting to see the firemen and engine at the Library. It was a surprise to most of them. Staff sincerely thanks the Fire Department for making the storytimes so special.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 95 emergency calls from 0800 hours January 2, to 0800 hours January 9, 0800 hours.

Rain and More Rain. The excessive rain this week prompted many calls for the department. With the roads slick and wet, traffic accidents were at a high. Homes and commercial buildings were flooded due to the major downpour. Truck 101 was busy removing water from these structures using their high powered water vacuum.

All "C" shift companies worked together deploying over 100 sandbags on properties that needed a barrier from the gushing water into their homes. All crews on the "C" shift also assisted in removing water from a commercial roof that was partially collapsed due to the amount and weight of the water on the roof, due to clogged drains. Thanks go out to the "C" shift for all of their hard work and perseverance during the torrential rainstorm encountered here in Monrovia.

As a reminder, sand bags are available at Fire Station 101 and can then be filled with sand located adjacent to the tennis courts in Recreation Park. The Fire Department highly encourages owners and renters to consider sand bagging operations if they feel that water runoff may impact their home or business. Filling sand bags half-way and stacking them three (3) high across opening can divert the water away from your home or business and prevent flooding. Also, removing leaves and litter from roof drains and gutters will divert the water and prevent roof collapse. Finally, monitoring local conditions and having an escape route in the event of major water run-off or mud slides can be invaluable.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Please read this excerpt from the NFPA site carefully and take the necessary precautions to avoid being part of these statistics. Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

Facts & figures

- In 2005, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 670 civilian deaths, 1,550 civilian injuries, and \$909 million in direct property damage.
- In 2005 heating equipment fires accounted for 16% of all reported home fires (second behind cooking) and 22% of home fire deaths.
- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for one-third (32%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2005.
- Excluding small confined fires, heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, is by far the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) and home heating fire deaths (53%).
- Chimneys and chimney connectors accounted for the largest share (36%) of home heating fire incidents in 2005. Failure to clean accounted for two-thirds (64%) of the confined chimney and chimney connector fires in 2002-2005.
- The peak months for home heating fires are December, January and February, accounting for nearly half (44%) of all home heating fires.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Five personnel from the department are attending a class all this week to enhance their knowledge of management in the fire service. The class is being offered in San Gabriel, and hosted by Rio Hondo College and San Gabriel Fire Department.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

This week the International Association of Fire Chief's (IAFC) announced a new partnership, related to a public-safety campaign, with the U.S. Fire Administration to end the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths---Fires started by smoking materials.

The IAFC, with the leadership of the Fire and Life Safety Section, continues to move forward on the national level to enhance public awareness and efforts on a variety of home fire-prevention issues,

from reduced ignition-strength (“fire-safe”) cigarettes to residential sprinklers and a combination of photoelectric and ionization smoke alarms.

“This campaign is a model of the grassroots efforts that are critical to preventing deadly home fires,” said Chief Steven P. Westermann, IAFC President. “We can make great progress in the reduction of home fires by working with government and industry, but education of the public—and particularly smokers—can have immediate life-saving results.”

Tools provided by the campaign include statistics, free brochures and posters, as well as electronic resources such as English and Spanish-language websites and downloadable web banners. More information on the campaign, including free educational resources, can be found online at www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking (English) and www.usfa.dhs.gov/fumar (Spanish).

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 560 calls for service resulting in 116 investigations. Following are this week’s highlighted issues and events:

Employee Theft / Conspiracy. On January 3 at 6:20 p.m., an officer responded to a business in the 500 block of West Huntington regarding two female employees being detained by store security for embezzlement. The officer determined the two females, who are co-workers, had been working together to embezzle merchandise from the store. This crime was discovered by another employee who audited the cancelled transactions. The two suspects were arrested and booked.

Robbery. On January 3 at 6:24 p.m., officers responded to a business in the 1200 block of South Myrtle regarding a fight in progress in the parking lot. An officer responded and determined a robbery had taken place. Two male subjects were walking in the rear parking area of the location when they were accosted by two male suspects. One suspect had a handgun and the other had a metal object, possibly brass knuckles. The suspect with the metal object struck one of the victim's knocking him to the ground. The second victim ran into the business and called the police.

While the first victim was still on the ground, the suspects searched his pockets and took his wallet, which contained three blank checks, his identification card, and a pay as you go type credit card. The suspects then fled in a waiting vehicle. Investigation continuing.

Vehicle Burglary. On January 3 at 8:01 p.m., an officer went to a business in the 500 block of West Huntington regarding a vehicle burglary. The victim reported that he parked his suburban in the parking lot and went inside the business. When he came out, he found that someone had broken into his vehicle. The officer determined the suspect(s) used a screwdriver type tool to punch the door lock to gain entry. The suspect(s) tried starting the vehicle as evidenced by damage to the ignition, but was unsuccessful. The suspect(s) then ripped the dash and removed both the stereo and navigation system from it, and left undetected. Investigation continuing.

Rock & Mud Reports. On the evening of January 4, several calls were received from citizens regarding flooding and leaks in their residences. Public Works placed sand and 150 empty sandbags at Recreation Park, between the tennis courts and the ball field. Residents were able to go there to fill sandbags to use to protect their homes.

Domestic Violence. On January 4 at 3:12 a.m., an officer responded to the 700 block of South Fifth regarding the report of a female running around in the area screaming for help. The female then called 9-1-1 to report her ex-boyfriend had been drinking and was physical with her. She refused paramedics and stated that her ex-boyfriend locked himself in the residence. When the officer arrived, he located the male outside and detained him. After interviewing the female victim, it was

determined the male had pulled her hair, hit her head, and dragged her down a sidewalk. She sustained minor injuries. The male was arrested for domestic violence.

Grand Theft Auto Suspect Arrested. On January 5, Monrovia police were contacted by San Diego Police Department regarding a grand theft auto suspect wanted by our agency for a grand theft that occurred on January 1. The main suspect in the vehicle theft was the 30-year-old son of the victim. The suspect was stopped in the stolen vehicle by Tijuana Police after he ran out of gas. They let the suspect go back into San Diego, but without the vehicle.

After the suspect walked in the rain for several hours, he went to a hotel to dry off and covered himself with one of the pool towels. The hotel employees called the San Diego Police Department. When the officers arrived, the suspect was in possession of his mother's wallet and cell phone, which were taken from the residence. Monrovia officers responded to San Diego Police Department and took custody of the suspect. Further investigation revealed the son took the vehicle to Mexico, where he tried to sell it for cash.

Shoplifting Arrest. On January 5 at 1:41 p.m., a security officer from a business in the 500 block of West Huntington called police and advised that a female suspect concealed some store property on her person and was getting ready to leave the business. As the responding officer was pulling into the store parking lot, he saw the suspect running through the parking lot toward Huntington. The suspect was arrested for shoplifting and taken into custody.

Vehicle Burglary. On January 5 at 8:52 a.m., officers took a vehicle burglary report in the 200 block of West Palm. The victim parked his vehicle on the street overnight and returned in the morning to find his driver's side window smashed and his wallet missing from the vehicle. Investigation continuing.

Outside Assist. On January 5 at about 6:40 p.m., a sheriff's deputy saw a male subject riding a bicycle east on Duarte Road and into a business area. The deputy turned around and drove in looking for the subject. By this time, the subject was walking out of the business area. The deputy detained the subject and Monrovia police responded to assist. It was determined the subject had concealed copper tubing, a hacksaw and other items. Although it was clear he had stolen the copper tubing, no immediate victim was located. He was arrested by Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Petty Theft with a Prior / Parole Hold. On January 5 at 7:51 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a business in the 500 block of West Huntington regarding a male subject in custody for shoplifting. The subject went in the business with a blue carrying bag. He selected a pair of boots and a pair of shoes and concealed them in the bag. He then walked out of the business carrying the blue bag without paying for the footwear. He was detained by loss prevention officers. An officer responded and transported the subject to Monrovia Police Department where computer checks revealed he had a prior conviction for theft with time served. The subject also had a parole warrant. He was booked for all charges.

Domestic Violence / 72-Hour Detention. On January 5 at 8:42 p.m., officers went to the 100 block of East Central on the report of a female being beaten by her boyfriend. When officers arrived, the male suspect had left the location. The female was hysterical and told the officers she had taken medication. The officers received a call from the female's daughter, who reported that her mother had told her she was going to drive home and kill herself. The officers placed the female under a 72-hour hold for evaluation at a hospital. She had marks on her arms as if someone had held her with their hands. The boyfriend later came into the station and was interviewed. He claimed the female attacked him, and he did hold her by the arms to keep her from assaulting him. At this time, it was not possible to determine the aggressive party. Investigation continuing.

Burglary Arrest. On January 6 at 12:06 p.m., dispatch received a call from a business in the 700 block of West Huntington. The loss prevention personnel advised that two adult male suspects were committing an in-progress shoplifting. The two suspects were removing ink cartridges from boxes and secreting them on their persons. One of the suspects went to a register with other merchandise that it appeared he was going to legitimately purchase. The second suspect ran out of the store and fled the

scene before officers arrived. The suspect who remained inside the store was taken into custody. Officers found his vehicle and located other ink cartridges in the vehicle without their boxes. Officers conducted a search for the other suspect, but he was not located.

Armed Robbery. On January 6 at 9:57 p.m., a 9-1-1 caller from a business in the 300 block of West Huntington advised an armed robbery was in progress. The caller stated two male suspects armed with handguns were robbing their business. Officers were in close proximity of the business and saw the suspects in the 300 block of West Cypress as they entered a vehicle. The officer activated his red lights and the suspects fled. A short pursuit ended when the suspects abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot in the area of Montana and Los Robles. A perimeter was quickly set up with assistance from Arcadia, Irwindale, Sierra Madre, and Baldwin Park Police Departments, which was necessary to cover the large area. A search resulted in one suspect being arrested and his weapon recovered. The other suspect was not apprehended. The case is still being investigated to identify the second suspect.

Suicide. On January 7 at 3:00 a.m., a 9-1-1 caller advised a male subject had committed suicide by shooting himself with a gun in the 500 block of Park Rose. There were no signs of foul play and the coroner responded and took possession of the deceased.

Outside Assist. On January 7 at approximately 8:30 p.m., three male suspects sought for an attempted murder in the City of Upland came into Monrovia Police Department to surrender. Upland Police Department was immediately called and responded to take custody of the suspects and transport them to their station for further investigation. The three suspects are residents of Monrovia.

Shots Fired. On January 8 at 11:31 a.m., officers responded to Olive and Shamrock on a shots fired call. An adult male subject was walking south on Shamrock when a car drove up. A male suspect in the vehicle, possibly 19 or 20 years of age, produced a handgun and shot two times at the subject. The victim was not injured. Someone he knew drove by in a vehicle and picked him up. Officers conducted a large area search for the suspect and the suspect vehicle. The victim was located and a composite of the suspect was distributed. Investigation continuing.

Grand Theft. On January 9 at 4:16 p.m., security personnel from a business in the 700 block East Huntington noticed a subject they recognized from a grand theft that occurred in December of 2007. The suspect had stolen a purse and was seen getting into a white van. The store security followed the suspect as he left the store and observed the suspect getting into a white van, so they called police. An officer was in the area, and as she entered the parking lot, she observed the white van leaving, so she attempted to stop it. The suspect drove around the lot and suddenly pulled over, exited the van, and began to run around the lot. As the officer gave chase, the suspect ran back into the store.

A perimeter was established, but the suspect came out a few minutes later and was taken into custody with further incident. The store manager approached officers and stated she saw the suspect dumping property inside the store. Officers recovered identification cards, credit cards, and a cell phone. During the investigation, it was determined that an elderly female had her purse stolen inside the store. Her property was recovered and returned to her. The officer managed to locate a second victim who had her purse and cell phone taken from another location in Arcadia, earlier in the day. Her property was recovered and returned to her. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody. The investigation is continuing.



ENGINEERING:

Library Project - Demolition and Grading. The existing building is being dismantled, and is scheduled for completion by the end of next week—all materials are being recycled. The grading for the new Library building is scheduled to begin January 21. Staff is working with the project manager to ensure the trees are maintained and free from damage, stormwater compliance and conditions of construction are maintained. Staff is participating in the review, plan check and distribution of Bid Package No.2, which consists of Concrete foundations and slab; structural steel and decking; plumbing and site utilities; and steel window frames and glazing.

Colorado Commons Street Improvements. Staff is working with the contractor and the Colorado Commons developer to coordinate the street improvements. Saw-cutting and demolition will be completed by the end of this week. An Edison vault vent was relocated from the "paseo" into the alley. Meter vaults, utility vaults, and valve boxes are being replaced and adjusted to grade

Rule 20A, Underground Utility District Mountain and Royal Oaks. Construction has started with saw cut for the trenches and transmission vault installation at Royal Oaks and Mountain Avenues. The vaults were set this week with mainline trenching beginning on January 11. Trenching will begin at the intersection of Royal Oaks and Shamrock; proceed easterly to Mountain; then southerly crossing Huntington and ending.

Rain Event - Storm Inspections. Staff inspected open grading permits for compliance with required stormwater management devices and general site conditions. The 20 unit project at Duarte/California/Monrovia had run-off and debris onto Monrovia. The contractor was cleaning up the street the next morning and installing new/additional sandbags around the site.

Grading Plan Check Status

- 714 Norumbega, Single family residence, grading plans submitted for plan check.
- 482 Patrician Way, Single family room addition, site plan check with corrections returned to applicant

Public Works Inspections:

- 337 Highland, Retaining wall construction continuing, backfill approved.
- Bus Shelter Construction, rain delayed, tile work and stucco being rescheduled.
- 911 Royal Oaks, Curb/Handicap Access ramp construction at Mountain & Royal Oaks pending
- 1825 10th Avenue, Final project punch list, street resurfacing of utility trenches are pending.
- 1402 S. California, Erosion control measures for site demolition activities.
- California/Monrovia/Duarte, Building pads are formed, 2nd story framing 75% complete. Edison pole removal is 3-4 weeks away. On-site sewer improvements are being scheduled
- 202 E. Foothill, Final punch list created, 4 of the 6 units have been finalized by Public Works.
- 202 Terrace View, Retaining wall construction, footing inspected, ready for concrete
- 1419 S. Myrtle, West and north concrete walls are standing. The east and south walls are being formed and poured on the slab. East and south walls to be erected after required concrete cure time has elapsed. Sewer lateral televised for potential re-use upon review of video tape inspection.

Construction Documents:

- Trash Enclosure, behind 601 S. Myrtle. Plans are complete and presented to the contractor for a cost estimate
- Chantry Flats Road Repair - Preliminary design has been received and plan check has begun.
- 5th and Huntington Wash Cover - design work commencing with subsequent preparation of construction documents
- Handicap Access Ramp Construction - Construction plans are 90% complete and plan check has begun.

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Outdoor Education. Environmental Staff participated with Canyon Park Outdoor Ed program by providing an interactive environmental presentation, focusing on storm water pollution prevention, oil recycling, and the three R's - Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle.

Kruse Street. To assure proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials, the Environmental Services Staff, with Fire Department Inspectors, have been working closely with a business and its owner, located on Kruse Street, to acquire compliance from the business owner.

Solid Waste Program Research. Environmental Services Staff continues to develop strategies

Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event, sponsored by Los Angeles County, will be held this Saturday, January 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the El Monte Airport, 4233 North Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte 91731.

Rainy Season. Facilities staff was busy this past week repairing the roof at the Police Department, Temporary Library (Mary Wilcox Youth Center) and Public Works Building. Along with heavy rains last weekend, Edison experienced several power failures within the City, temporarily leaving five intersections with non-functional traffic signals for several hours.

Traffic Signal Inventory. Facilities Staff along with Clary Corporation, a local Monrovia organization, began the field research and traffic signal system inventory for the proposed installation of UPS (Uninterruptible Power Systems) along the Huntington Drive, Foothill Blvd and Duarte Road corridors. The UPS will keep the traffic signals from going dark when power failures occur. The intersection of Huntington Drive and Myrtle Avenue which has had a UPS in place since October 19, 2007, stayed operational during this last rainstorm.

Holiday Decorations. Public Works staff is removing the upper holiday decorations during the early morning hours in Old Town, so not to inconvenience the customers and flow of traffic; the lower decorations will be removed throughout the day.

Energy Audit. Intergy Corporation, affiliate to the San Gabriel Valley Energywise Partnership, conducted an Energy Inspection and Audit this week. Upon completion, the audit will form part of the Model City Program and serve to determine areas within the City and its facilities that energy consumption can be reduced or eliminated. Ultimately, this audit will help to accomplish many of the Monrovia Environmental Accords' Energy Action Items.

Corporate Yard Landscape. Planting is underway at the newly renovated Corporate Yard. Staff is currently installing new irrigation, plants and expects to complete the landscape project within the next few weeks.

STREETS:

Traffic Signs:

- Graffiti was removed from 58 traffic signs, 19 of which were customer call-in work requests.
- Staff replaced the sign post and signs in the center medians at Central and California, also in the median at Primrose and Huntington Dr.

Miscellaneous:

- Cleared debris from city roadways and sidewalks generated by the rain storms on January 4th, 5th, and 6th.
- Street Division personnel responded to an emergency call-out on Friday January 4th to assist the Monrovia Fire Department in a flooded condition call in the 1000 block of Royal Oaks due to excessive storm water.
- Front entrance customer parking lot at Public Works Facility performed concrete construction operations.

UTILITIES:

Customer Service

- 1,190 water meters were read and recorded
- 4 service requests were completed
- 34 water shut-off notices were distributed

Water Production

Water consumption is 34.6 millions gallons which is normal water usage at this time of the year.

Department of Health Services Required Water Samples:

- 31 water system samplings
- 15 water well samplings
- 6 water treatment facility samplings

7.47 inches of rain was recorded during last week's storm.

Utility Maintenance

- 3 water services were installed
- 1 sewer lateral repair was completed for the 50/50 sewer program
- 14 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 14,917 feet of sewer mains were cleaned

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Tues., Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m.

Salute to Service

Tues., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR'S BIRTHDAY, CITY HALL CLOSED

Tues., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

PRESIDENT'S DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED

Tues., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

In 'very good shape'

Monrovia mayor gives upbeat State of City address

By Emanuel Parker, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 01/09/2008 09:45:34 PM PST

MONROVIA - The state's economic woes may be casting a pall over many California cities, but Monrovia is on sound financial footing, Mayor Rob Hammond said.

"I am pleased to report to you tonight that the city of Monrovia begins 2008 with its budget balanced," Hammond said during his State of the City address Tuesday evening.

"In recent weeks we have made appropriate and fiscally conservative adjustments to the budget ... and we begin the new year in very good shape," he said.

As the mayor spoke at the Krikorian Theatre, slides and slogans to illustrate his points flashed on a movie screen behind him.

Hammond said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's announcement Tuesday that California is facing a \$14 billion budget deficit means cities should not expect much help from the state in the upcoming fiscal year.

"We expect (the state) to again raid our revenue to solve their problem," he said. "If they do, we've already identified various levels of financial responses that we can make."

About 70 percent of Monrovia's annual budget goes for public safety, including police and fire services. Its current budget calls for 2 percent growth in revenue this fiscal year. Hammond called the anticipated growth "a conservative and attainable goal."

The city has \$4.5 million in reserves in its General Fund, enough to cover any unexpected events, Hammond said, and officials hope to increase the reserve to \$5.3 million.

But the city is not immune to macro-economic problems, including declining property values, which impact the amount of property-tax revenue Monrovia receives, the mayor noted. Slowdowns in other areas of the larger economy also could be felt locally, he added.

"Sales tax is Monrovia's second greatest revenue generator. We expect sales tax revenue will flatten after several years of 2 percent to 5 percent growth. With both auto sales and housing construction stalled for at least the short term, we're expecting only minimal growth for the next two years."

The mayor listed city accomplishments made in 2007:

- Construction began on a new public library, which is scheduled to be completed in 2009.
- Major repairs and an expansion were completed on the Fire Department's Lemon Avenue headquarters.
- Improvement and expansion work was nearly completed at the City Yard on Mountain Avenue, a project that is on time and within budget.
- Monrovia added 143 acres to its Wilderness Preserve.
- The city installed nearly 3,000 feet of new underground water pipes and began operating a new water treatment plant.

emanuel.parker@sgvn.com (626) 578-6300, Ext. 4475

City opts for own animal control

By Emanuel Parker, Staff Writer

Article Launched: 01/11/2008 08:41:49 PM PST

MONROVIA - With the hiring of a full-time animal control officer and plans to hire at least one more, the city's switch to an in-house agency to handle animal calls and problems is moving along smoothly, officials said this week.

After ending its 27-year relationship with the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society last year, the city hired veteran animal control officer Rhonda Reynolds to work full time in the city's new animal control unit.

Officials plan to hire one more full-time officer and one more part-timer. One part-time animal control officer, Maggie Beach, has already been hired, said Cpt. Rick Miglia of the Monrovia Police Department, which oversees the new unit.

"We had more than 50 applicants," Miglia said. "We did oral interviews and background checks. We were not going to lower our standards. We already have 16 applicants for the other full-time position."

A temporary animal shelter has been set up behind the police station. Long-term boarding and care will be handled by the Inland Valley Humane Society in Pomona.

Miglia said his research found that many nearer animal shelters, including the Pasadena Humane Society, are at capacity.

He chose Inland Valley's, he said, "because I was impressed by Inland's facilities, its cleanliness, organization and professionalism." "I liked their programs and philosophy, so I recommended them," he added.

Last year, Monrovia residents called for animal-control services 2,700 times. The SGV Humane Society issued 2,500 dog licenses and removed 500 stray animals from the streets.

But Miglia said contracting with the Humane Society was becoming increasingly expensive. After the Humane Society hiked prices last year, he did a study and found the city could run its own program and provide better service for the same amount of money.

Miglia said he passed that information onto the police chief and city manager and the City Council approved the change. Miglia said he had four weeks to set the program up and was lucky to secure the services of Reynolds.

Reynolds worked as a Glendora animal control officer for 15 years.

"There's a lot more wildlife here," she said. "Also, little has been done proactively about spaying and neutering. That's a big problem. I've found most dogs here have not been neutered."

The city purchased a state-of-the-art animal control truck for the new unit. The air-conditioned vehicle has the latest communications equipment, several kennels and lifts that allow one person to place big animals in cages and easily pick up roadkill as large as a deer.

Once the program is up to speed, Miglia said officials plan to offer special pet adoption programs, low-cost spay and neutering, licensing, rabies clinics and education programs.

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